

David Holmes to Andrew Jackson, September 7, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

GOVERNOR HOLMES TO JACKSON.

“ Town of Washington ”,¹ September 7, 1814.

¹ Washington, now a small village half a dozen miles east of Natchez, was at this time the capital of Mississippi Territory.

Sir, Previous to the receipt of your letter of the 27th ulto. by Express, I had issued a General order for the assembling of the five hundred Infantry (required by the President) at the most convenient points, for the Detachments from the several Regiments to march to Mt. Vernon,² and appointed such days for them to rendezvous as I supposed would afford time enough to have the requisite equipments forwarded from Orleans, a copy of the order is herewith transmitted. I wrote to you on the 15th of last month that I intended to order this force into service as soon as equipments could be procured but my letter could not have reached you before the express left Mobile. On the 21st ulto. I wrote to the commanding Officer of the post at Orleans to forward to this place equipments for one thousand men, to this letter I have received no answer.

² A few miles west of Fort Stoddert. An army cantonment had been built at Mt. Vernon in the winter of 1811–1812.

Upon the receipt of your last communication I concluded to assemble the Troops with as little delay as possible and gave an additional order to that effect. We shall have to

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purchase such articles as are indispensably necessary at Natches unless a supply should arrive from Orleans.

I concluded to order from Madison county but one complete company of the requisition, but authorised Lt. Colo. Perkins³ to accept an additional company of volunteers, if they could be obtained, believing that this

3 Lieut.-Col. Peter Perkins, of Madison County (Ala.), commanding the 7th Regt. of Mississippi militia.

measure would be agreeable to you, and that the additional force would be recognized by the President of the United States. The Colo. has my orders to apply to the commanding officer at Fort Hampton⁴ for such articles of equipment as can be furnished from that post, and to march by the most direct rout with all possible dispatch to Mobile. The Detachments east of Pearl river I have ordered to rendezvous at Mt. Vernon immediately. That portion of the quota which is to be drawn from this quarter of the Territory will be put in motion with as little delay as possible. Colo. Arbuckle⁵ will be able to furnish them with arms, I had supposed that there were at Mount Vernon or at some other post on the eastern frontier a number of spare arms, from the circumstance of some Detachments of Militia having left their equipments there after being discharged. . . .

4 In northern Alabama, on the north bank of the Tennessee, near the Muscle Shoals.

5 Lieut.-Col. Mathew Arbuckle, 3d Infantry.

I have four full Troops of cavalry in this part of the Territory. In order that you may not be disappointed, in Mounted men I will send you one Troop. The other three will be held in readiness to march whenever you may require their services.

I am with great respect and esteem